

I am convinced that both the Humboldt Bay and Admiralty Island natives believed that we bought their weapons in order to use them as such. They frequently, when offering spears and bows, showed by signs how well they would kill. No doubt they think the Whites are a race which cannot make bows and arrows for themselves.

The ship was anchored in "Nares Anchorage," which is sheltered by a line of outlying reefs running parallel with the shore, and by numerous small islands. On the line of reefs are two larger islands named Wild Island and Dentre-casteaux Island, the latter being nearer to the anchorage. These were the only two islands seen by us to be inhabited.

The land surface in the vicinity of Nares Bay, consists of a series of low irregular ridges rising one above another, with wide flat expanses at the heads of the bays on the coast, which are scarcely or not at all raised above sea-level, and thus are in a swampy condition. The mountains appear, from their form, to be volcanic; and it is probable that the obsidian used by the natives for their spear-heads is procured in them. A trachytic lava was found to compose one of the outlying islands; and a similar rock was observed on the mainland where it commenced to rise. A platform of coral-sand rock forms the coast-line of the main island in many places; and a similar rock is the only component of most of the small outlying islands.

From the position of the Admiralty Islands with regard to the equator, their climate is necessarily an extremely damp one. A great deal of exceedingly heavy rain fell during the stay of the "Challenger." Rain fell on five days of the seven, during which we were at Nares Anchorage, the total fall being 1'66 inch. The temperature of the air ranged between 86° and 75° F., the mean of maximum and minimum observations being about 80° F.; and the air was loaded with moisture. Dense clouds of watery vapour hung about the forest-clad ranges, keeping the mountains most frequently concealed; and in the evenings clouds of mist hung about the lower land, looking like smoke rising from between the densely-packed trees. In a bay some miles to the eastward of the anchorage of the "Challenger," the mouth of a small river, apparently the outlet of the drainage of the mountains on this side, was found, and also a very small brook; but running water was not elsewhere observed, and the rain probably drains to a large extent into the swamps.

The main island, as viewed from seawards, is seen to be densely wooded everywhere. Along the summits of the ridges Cocoa-nut Palms show out against the sky, accompanied by